

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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MOSES TRIES TO PROTECT COMPUTERS FROM SPYWARE

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Win Moses' (D-Fort Wayne) legislation prohibiting the use of computer spyware was passed out of the House Technology, Research and Development Committee today.

"Currently, spyware programs are installed on computers via the Internet without the owner's knowledge," explained Moses. "Once installed, the programs collect data about how the computer is being used, and then send that private information back to the companies who installed the deceptive spyware"

House Bill 1714 would prohibit this practice of fraudulently collecting data from unsuspecting users. Software that would modify computer settings or record keystrokes would be banned to protect citizens from these invasions of privacy.

While good spyware like parental controlling software does exist, spyware is mainly used for malicious reasons. Through the programs, companies can gain access to credit card numbers, bank account numbers, Social Security numbers, and passwords. It is even possible for spyware to prohibit the installation or execution of software as well.

"The Internet invites spyware companies into our private lives and gives them access to all sorts of personal account numbers and information," said Moses. "We have a responsibility to protect the privacy of Hoosiers from this spying."

Moses' bill will now be sent to the full House for consideration.